

No 05-2003
Human Rights Commission

AMENDED

**FAIRFAX COUNTY
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING NOTICE**

The Human Rights Commission will meet at **7:30 p.m.**, Wednesday, March 19, 2003, in the Fairfax County Government Center, located at **12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia**, in **Conference Rooms #9 and #10**.

AGENDA

7:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda
Approval of Minutes
Announcements
Community Concerns

8:00 p.m.

Staff Issues

Extensions
Resolution Agreements
Staff Report

8:15 p.m.

Old Business

Human Rights Award Banquet

New Business

Annual Report

8:30 p.m.

Commission Issues

HRC #2001440H
HRC #99490E
HRC #2000063E

9:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Present : Chairperson Dunbar
Secretary Clark
Commissioner Helfman
Commissioner Lawson
Commissioner Lewis
Commissioner Makhdoom
Commissioner Samhan
Commissioner Solon
Commissioner Strother
Commissioner Tsai

Staff: Executive Director Cash, Lieutenant Michael D. Dittmar, Captain Jack Hurlock, 2nd
Lieutenant Gerveis T. Reed, Fair Housing Program Manager and Secretary Stever

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dunbar called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. on March 5, 2003.

Agenda: Executive Director Cash amended the agenda to allow the Police to present the Bias Crime Report before the Staff Report. Commissioner Samhan moved to approve the Agenda, as amended. Secretary Clark seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Minutes: Secretary Clark moved to approve the minutes of February 5, 2003, as submitted. Commissioner Helfman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Announcements: Chairperson Dunbar welcomed the recently appointed Commissioner, Ms. Heather D. Lawson, to the Commission.

Fair Housing Program Manager Long announced that the Board of Supervisors should proclaim April as Fair Housing Month. Secretary Clark will be present to make some remarks.

Commissioner Strother announced that the Virginia Council has survived. However, they lost two positions and thousands of dollars from the budget.

Chairperson Dunbar announced that he is on the Board of Trustees for United Way in Falls Church and noted that they will be hiring an Administrative Assistant in Falls Church with an hourly rate of \$15.00 an hour with full benefits. He added that if you know anyone who would be interested in the position to refer them to the United Way in Falls Church.

Community Concerns: There were no community concerns at this time.

STAFF ISSUES

Bias Crime Report: Lieutenant Michael D. Dittmer, Fairfax County Police Department, presented the Bias Crime Report. Please see attached report. Lieutenant Dittmer introduced Captain Jack Hurlock and 2Nd Lieutenant Gerveis T. Reed, who will be the new Bias Crime Coordinator.

Resolution Agreements: Executive Director Cash recommended that the Commission accept the conciliation agreement in HRC #2002406PA. Commissioner Solon moved to accept the conciliation agreement in HRC #2002406PA. Secretary Clark seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Staff Report: Executive Director Cash reported that one investigator position will be transferred from a Merit Position to a Grant Position in FY 2004.

Legislative Report: Executive Director Cash reported that the County's Legislative initiative on sexual orientation was voted down in subcommittee. Ken Plum wanted to bring it back in full committee but the votes weren't there so he pulled it. He added that the anti genetic discrimination bill had better success. It passed the Senate 26-13. Senator Howell pulled the Bill from consideration in the House after some discussion.

Executive Director Cash reported that Deputy Director Carroll's issues with her ill mother are still not resolved. She is ready to leave the hospital but has no nursing home to go to.

Executive Director Cash asked the Commission if they wanted to reimburse themselves from the Gift Fund for their per diem expenses for the Commission training in June. The Commission decided to bring this back at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Human Rights Award Banquet: Secretary Clark reported that she had received a call from the Lieutenant Governor's office and he will not be able to be the speaker for the Banquet. Any suggestions on a speaker for the Banquet, contact Secretary Clark. She noted that the nominations for the Banquet have been distributed this evening and we had only received three nominations this year and have included the nominations that were not selected last year on the list. It was decided that each Commission pick the top five nominations and email them to Executive Director Cash so he could do a tally by March 17, 2003. She added that last year they had agreed to have a Housing Award and had not included that, so there will be nominations for Section 8 Housing at the next meeting, which would be a separate award. Executive Director Cash noted that we needed a motion to pay \$500 for a deposit on the Banquet to the Sheraton Premiere in Tyson's Corner. Secretary Clark then moved that the Commission pay \$500 from the Gift Fund for the deposit on the Banquet to the Sheraton Premiere. Commissioner Helfman

seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Executive Director Cash also announced that Exxon Mobil has given the Commission a grant for \$500 for the Banquet.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Report: Chairperson Dunbar noted that Deputy Director Carroll has been out of the office and will be working on the annual report

COMMISSION ISSUES

HRC #2001330H: Executive Director Cash noted that there was insufficient evidence to support a finding that the respondent engaged in a discriminatory housing practice, and recommended that the complaint be dismissed.

Secretary Clark moved that the Commission accept the recommendation in HRC #2001330H. Commissioner Samhan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Commissioner Strother moved that the Commission recess and go into closed session for discussion or consideration of matters enumerated in Virginia Code § 2.1-344 and listed in the Agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Commission went into closed session at 8:42 p.m.

Secretary Clark moved that to the best of our knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which closed session was convened were heard, discussed or considered. Commissioner Tsai seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Commission reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

Commissioner Strother moved to amend the agenda that the Commission discussed the Amphora cases in closed session. Secretary Clark seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

APPEALS

<u>Hearing Officers</u>	<u>Date Scheduled</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Time</u>
<u>Panel I</u> Weaver, Solon, Strother, Tsai, Helfman, Lawson	March 19, 2003	#99490E	8:30 p.m. (Tab A)
<u>Panel II</u> Dunbar, Clark, Lewis, Makhdoom Samhan	March 19, 2003	#2000063E	8:30 p.m. (Tab B)

Commissioner Clark moved to accept \$1500 and all other offers going to continue with case and find out if test again if we find a discrimination against anyone and have to pay \$5000 for each incident and will monitor him for three years. Commissioner Solon seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 9-1 with Commissioner Lewis opposed.